

the first investment in attempting to develop a gasohol project when they helped finance and pass LB 776 which created the Gasohol Committee. I want to point out that the Wheatgrowers have said many times, and the Wheatgrowers are strong promoters of this project, that every acre of corn that is raising soybeans or corn or sorghum does not wind up raising wheat, and many of our acres of land that can raise sorghum, corn and soybeans can also be used to raise wheat. So the Wheatgrowers have felt that it is a wise investment for them to encourage the development of an alcohol fuels industry. I want to point out also, Senator Peterson has said and Senator Vickers has said, and, Senator Vickers, I watched you many times, you don't sweeten up a bill by putting on a decent amendment to make a bill that is not attractive to some of us a little more attractive. That is an old trick around here, and I am learning after a while, but the point is that the alcohol fuels industry, when we started out in 1971, and outside of Senator Cal Carsten, who was with me at that time, Senator Warner and a few others, there are none of the rest of us left. When we started out we were called foolish, ridiculous and everything else, and they said there will never be an alcohol fuels industry, there will never be unleaded gasoline, we have billions of barrels of petroleum in reserve, if Schmit's and Carsten's and this other bill becomes law, it will raise the price of gasoline three cents a gallon and the public will never stand for it. At that time I was paying 29 cents a gallon for gasoline delivered to the farm. We all know the story of that. Three years later, three years later after we passed that bill, we found ourselves in the middle of a very serious petroleum shortage. We are still there today. We are still paying in times of a supposed glut of petroleum fuels more than a dollar for a gallon of gasoline. In response to whether or not private industry will do it, let me point out to you that private industry is moving in this area. It is moving very rapidly, but there are many, many projects that are financed by checkoff funds that help to aid and develop an industry which is a growing and developing industry. We have spent billions if not more trying to develop overseas markets. It makes sense to me and I think it makes sense to the majority of this Legislature that we attempt to develop those markets that are here at home. It certainly makes sense to me in view of the fact that the Congress has passed a multibillion dollar program to get rid of surpluses. Had we have spent a fraction of that money on the development of an alcohol fuels program, we would have had a viable industry today at a much less cost and would have solved the problem for years in advance, rather instead of a what I